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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BOOTLE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

1943.

F. T. H. WOOD, O.B.E., M.D. (Lond.), B.S., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, Medical Officer to the Public Assistance Committee, etc.

Bootle Times, 30, Oriel Road.

1944.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL, BOOTLE.
15*th May* 1944.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the County Borough of Bootle.

MR. MAYOR, MRS. ALDERMAN SMITH, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the seventy-first Annual Report on the work of the Health Department, which, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, is again curtailed.

Attention is directed to the following points of interest in the statistical records of the year:—

(1) A further rise in the birth rate, which reached the highest level recorded since 1921.

(2) A rise in the death rate, due mainly to an increased number of deaths from respiratory diseases and influenza during the last quarter of the year.

(3) A slight rise in the infantile mortality rate, which also was due largely to an increase in the amount of respiratory disease.

(4) A low incidence of notifiable infectious disease, with the lowest mortality rate from diphtheria yet recorded in the Borough.

(5) An increase in the incidence, but a slight fall in the death rate from tuberculosis.

(6) A further rise in the incidence of syphilis.

Features of interest in the general work of the Department have included the preparation of interim proposals for carrying out the duties of the Council under the Cancer Act, 1939, involving the formal association of the Council with the Liverpool Cancer Control Organisation; the administration of a scheme of maintenance allowances for certain cases of pulmonary tuberculosis; improvements and extensions in the care of illegitimate children, and in the follow-up of cases of venereal disease; the inauguration of a campaign on new lines against rat infestation; and proposals for post-war housing of the blind.

In addition, the ordinary services of the Department have been maintained, and it is accordingly a great pleasure again to testify to the steady devotion to duty of the staff, as well as to acknowledge my indebtedness to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their continued consideration.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,
F. T. H. WOOD,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1943.

Civilian Population (Registrar-General's estimate) at mid-year 1943 50,040

Area in Acres (exclusive of river bed) 2,414

Population at Census of 1931 76,770

Live Births—
Males 688; Females 639 ... Total 1327. Birth rate 26·5

Still Births—
Males 28; Females 14 ... Total 42. Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 30·7

Total Deaths ... 745 Death rate 14·9

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes ...	3	2·19

Number of deaths of Infants (under the age of one year) ... 101

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births—Legitimate, 77; Illegitimate, 57 ... ... Total 76

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 18
Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 ... ... 1·14
Death Rate from all forms of Tuberculosis per 1,000 ... ... 1·28

The Rateable Value of the Borough as at 1st April 1943 was £472,950
The estimated product of a Penny Rate for 1943-44 ... ...£1,699
In 1943-44 the General Rate was 15/11d. in the pound (excluding water rate and charges).

The cost of the Health Services during 1943-44 was estimated at £50,898, equivalent to a rate of 2s. 7d. in the pound.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BOOTLE.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

I.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—At the Census in 1881 the population enumerated was 27,374; in 1891, 49,217; in 1901, 58,556; in 1911, 69,876; in 1921, 76,487; and in 1931, 76,770.

On 10th May 1944 the Registrar-General intimated that his estimate of civilian population at mid-year 1943 was 50,040. This estimate shows that the population of the Borough last year was some 3,940 more than in the summer of 1942, and this increased figure is the lowest which can be accepted as consistent with the facts that the number of houses in occupation in the Borough rose during the year by 1,575 and that the school population was greater by some 2,000 children.

Marriages.—The Superintendent Registrar has been good enough to furnish me with figures of marriages during recent years which show that the rise which first occurred in 1939 was maintained during 1940, but that the total for 1941 reverted to normal and this year shows a further fall. The figures for the seven years commencing 1937 have been 629, 653, 731, 891, 659, 576 and 469 respectively.

Births.—During the year there were registered 1,327 births to Bootle parents, representing a birth rate of **26·5 per 1,000** of the population, that for England and Wales being 16·5. In 1942 the Bootle birth rate was 23·9 and for the decennium 1933-1942 it was 21·9. There were 688 male and 639 female births. It will be noted that the birth

rate, which reached a post-war maximum of 29·7 in the first quarter of 1920 and its minimum in 1938, shows a further rise again this year.

Period.	BOOTLE.		England & Wales
	Total Births.	Rate per 1,000.	Rate per 1,000.
1873—1880 ...	6,846	38·6	35·4
1881—1890 ...	15,508	36·8	32·4
1891—1900 ...	17,716	33·2	29·9
1901—1910 .	20,468	32·3	27·2
1911—1920 ...	20,748	27·6	21·8
1921—1930 ...	18,884	22·8	18·4
1931—1935 ...	8,367	21·8	15·0
1936—1940 ...	7,959	21·6	14·9
1941 ...	1,199	22·8	14·2
1942 ...	1,104	23·9	15·8
1943 ...	1,327	26·5	16·5

The illegitimate births numbered 88, and were 6·6 per cent. of the total. In 1942 the total number was 69, and in 1941, 51.

Deaths.—The total number of deaths of Bootle residents during 1943, whether within or without the Borough, was 745; this figure includes 62 who died in institutions within the Borough, 325 who died in transferred institutions in Liverpool, 49 who died in hospitals outside the Borough, and 8 who died in mental hospitals, making a total of 444 deaths in institutions.

The constitution of the present population of Bootle differs appreciably from that of peace time, and it is consequently unwise to lay too much stress on a bald statement of the death rate, which shows an increase to **14·9 per 1,000** from the figure of 13·6 per 1,000 for the preceding year; this difficulty is recognised by the Registrar-General who no longer supplies a comparability factor for the correction of abnormal age and sex constitutions of the populations of various areas.

The crude death-rate of the 126 great towns of England and Wales during 1943 was 14·2.

Period.	BOOTLE.		ENGLAND & WALES.
	Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.	Rate per 1,000.
1873—1880 ...	3,823	21·7	21·2
1881—1890 ...	8,260	19·9	19·1
1891—1900 ...	10,942	20·6	18·2
1901—1910 ...	11,400	17·8	15·4
1911—1920 ..	12,470	17·1	14·3
1921—1930 ...	10,336	13·5	12·1
1931—1935 ...	5,212	13·5	12·0
1936—1940 ...	5,019	13·8	12·5
1941 ...	1,227	23·3	12·9
1942 ...	629	13·6	11·6
1943 ...	745	14·9	12·1

The death-rate during the first quarter of the year was 14·2, during the second, 13·5; the third, 10·8; and the fourth, 20·3.

The number of deaths which occurred in institutions was 444, *i.e.*, 59·6 per cent. of the total deaths, as compared with 72·5 per cent. in 1942, and 48 per cent. in 1941. The increasing use made of institutions for the accommodation of cases of terminal illness is illustrated by a comparison with the percentage of 29 in 1920.

Infantile Mortality.—There were 101 deaths of infants, compared with 80 in 1942, and 115 in 1941. The infantile mortality rate was **76 per 1,000 births,** compared with 72 in 1942, and 80·8 in the decennium 1933 to 1942.

The rate of infantile mortality amongst males was 84, and amongst females 67. Throughout England and Wales the rate of infantile mortality was 49 per 1,000 births, and in the 126 great towns it was 58.

Eighteen infants died before they were a week old, and a total of 34 or 33·7 per cent. of all the deaths under one year, occurred in children under the age of one month. This is a neo-natal mortality rate of 25·6 per 1,000 births.

Young Child Mortality.—In 1943 there were 14 deaths of children aged 1 to 5 years, as compared with 23 in 1942. The principal causes were—meningitis 2, tuberculous meningitis 2, violence and accidents 2, diarrhoea and enteritis 2, whooping cough 1, and diphtheria 1.

Uncertified Deaths.—Sixty-seven deaths (39 of residents and 28 of non-residents) were the subject of a Coroner's inquest, and in only five cases was the death registered without certification by a medical man or a Coroner; this is equivalent to 0·67 per cent. of deaths uncertified.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The causes of death, classified according to age, are shown in the table on page 35.

Epidemic Diseases.—The epidemic diseases (excluding influenza) were responsible for 24 deaths, as compared with the average of 50·6 during the preceding ten years. There were no deaths from measles, as against 2 in 1942; 3 deaths from diphtheria, as against 5 in 1942; 2 deaths from whooping cough, and one from typhoid fever. The deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis were 18 as against 12 during 1942; sixteen were of infants under one year.

Respiratory Diseases.—The number of deaths from respiratory diseases was substantially higher than that recorded in the preceding year, and the increase occurred mainly in the last quarter. Pneumonia was responsible for 83 deaths, bronchitis for 42, and other respiratory diseases for 8, making the total deaths from respiratory diseases (excluding influenza and tuberculosis) 133, or 17·9 per cent. of the total deaths at all ages, as compared with 83, or 13·2 per cent. in 1942. Influenza was entered as a cause of death in 19 cases, as against 2 in the preceding year; the increase was due to an outbreak, widespread but relatively mild, which commenced in November.

Cancer.—Cancer was registered as the cause of death in 88 cases, as compared with 71 in the preceding year. This represents a cancer crude death-rate of 1·42 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 1·01 during the years 1911 to 1920, with 0·78 per 1,000 during the first ten years of this century, and with 0·55 during the ten years 1891 to 1900.

Violence.—There were 35 deaths from violence.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Valuable information as to economic conditions having a bearing on the health of the town is obtained from data kindly supplied by the Clerk to the Public Assistance Committee, and by the Clerk to the Bootle Insurance Committee.

It appears that during the year ended 25th December 1943, £21,763 was expended in outdoor relief, including £98 to unemployment cases (comparable figures for 1942 were £20,581 and £123). Further, the annual return of persons in receipt of Poor Relief on the night of 31st December 1943 shows 471 persons to have been in receipt of institutional relief, of whom 70 were persons not suffering from sickness, accident, or bodily or mental infirmity, and 1,036 persons to have been in receipt of domiciliary relief. The total number of persons in receipt of Poor Relief on 31st December 1943 was equivalent to 301 per 10,000 of the population, as compared with 326 in 1942.

Returns of the Ministry of Labour showing the numbers of insured men and women as unemployed and resident in the Borough are not now available.

The following table summarises conditions as to unemployment and public assistance during recent years, and shows the number in receipt of domiciliary relief last year to be a record low figure:—

Year.	Approximate monthly average of unemployed adult males.	Persons in receipt of relief on 1st January.		Total cost of outdoor relief.
		Institutional	Domiciliary	
				£
1931	7598	475	2864	47,865
1932	7013	375	3936	64,999
1933	6926	455	5659	82,843
1934	6476	431	6871	107,807
1935	6780	410	7270	113,130
1936	6389	548	6751	109,747
1937	5146	511	6586	74,727
1938	5051	480	4354	60,307
1939	4310	464	4124	58,982
1940	—	357	2992	53,104
1941	—	413	1775	25,544
1942	—	412	1092	20,581
1943	—	471	1036	21,763

As regards National Health Insurance, the total number of insured persons in the Borough on 1st October 1943 was 28,545, or 57 per cent. of the total civilian population. There was an increase in the number of prescriptions made up during the year. It will be recalled that the number of prescriptions dispensed for insured persons rose from 50,738 to 164,253 between 1921 and 1937, with a corresponding increase in the annual cost of medicines from £1,955 to £5,149 6s. 5d., while this year the experience is 113,693 prescriptions at a cost of £4,938 8s. 0d.

II. GENERAL PUBLIC MEDICAL TREATMENT.

The control of the transferred medical services remains with the Public Assistance Committee, although in November 1931 the Council delegated to the Health Committee the powers contained in Part I of the Local Government Act, 1929, with respect to the provision of hospital accommodation.

INSTITUTIONAL ACCOMMODATION FOR THE SICK.

By agreement continuing until April 1950 arrangements have been made for the reception of Bootle sick into the hospitals transferred to the Liverpool City Council after the passing of the Local Government Act, 1929. Admissions during the year numbered 3,321 (including 464 births and 1,443 admissions on Masters' or Medical Superintendents' Orders).

DOMICILIARY MEDICAL ATTENDANCE.

The administration of medical out-relief included in the functions transferred to the Council on 1st April 1930 is controlled by the Public Assistance Committee acting through the Medical Officer of Health, and the arrangements remain as described in earlier reports.

Examination of the returns of surgery consultations and home visits during the year showed that the work remained relatively light, the weekly average having been 33 surgery consultations and 5 home visits in Districts Nos. 1 and 2, and 41 surgery consultations and 9 home visits in District No. 3.

CANCER SCHEME.

Under the Cancer Act, 1939, every Local Authority became responsible, in regard to patients suffering from cancer, for seeing that the

following are provided: diagnostic facilities; adequate and efficient treatment both by surgery and by radiotherapy; a follow-up scheme with the necessary statistical records; suitable popular education or propaganda measures. It was also indicated that authorities should collaborate in joint action and with such existing organisations as already provide facilities either wholly or partially.

Although there is a large proportion of cancer cases which is incurable, present-day surgery and radiotherapy, if brought into action early and effectively, can certainly cure some types of cancer, *i.e.*, those in the accessible sites of breast, mouth, skin and cervix uteri. It is regrettable, however, that early and effective treatment is still the exception, and if improvement is to be achieved two general principles must be constantly followed (a) once cancer is suspected action must be immediate, (b) all specialists concerned should be engaged in cancer work to such an extent that they really have special experience.

With these principles in mind and in view of the fact that this Council's scheme when prepared must draw largely on facilities existing and to be provided in the City of Liverpool, the Council submitted to the Ministry of Health their proposals for interim arrangements for the period commencing 1st April 1944 to secure that the facilities for treatment of persons suffering from cancer are adequate for the needs of the Borough, and these proposals were duly approved by the Minister on 22nd February, 1944.

In brief, the Council determined to provide the above-mentioned facilities by arrangement with the Liverpool Cancer Control Organisation, which is a body representing all the institutions and organisations engaged in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in Liverpool and Bootle and on the governing body of which the Council is represented. The Liverpool Radium Institute and certain voluntary and municipal Hospitals will be employed by the Organisation in the working of such arrangements, which include the provision of a Radiotherapeutic Centre, deep X-ray therapy departments, consultative clinics, and arrangements for the use of Radium and Radon, in-patient accommodation in certain hospitals, and the establishment of a Clinical Register and a Pathological Register.

The formal association of the Council with the diagnosis and treatment of cancer will, of course, entail new expenditure, but in so far as

it is decided to be "additional expenditure" (Cancer Act 1939, Section 2 (7)) it will rank for grant, varying in each locality, and in the case of Bootle amounting to 85 per cent.

VACCINATION.

According to information supplied by the Vaccination Officer, 974 successful primary vaccinations and two successful re-vaccinations were performed during the year ended 30th September 1943, as compared with the previous year's figures of 619 and five respectively.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

As from 1st December 1942 the accident and sickness ambulance service, formerly provided by the Bootle General Hospital and staffed by members of the Fire Brigade and latterly of the National Fire Service, was transferred to the Council; three ambulances are manned by a rota of drivers and attendants drawn from the whole-time personnel of the Civil Defence Casualty Services (Rescue Service from July). During the year the service, in addition to other duties, transferred 1,604 cases to hospital, including 627 from the Dock Estate; of the total, 612 calls were received between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m.

III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY.

Bootle is within the area of supply of the Liverpool Corporation Water Undertaking. The supply is by gravitation from upland sources in North Wales and Lancashire, and the water from both these sources is treated by slow sand filtration and by the use of chloramines.

The supply is constant and, generally speaking, all premises are supplied from the mains of the Undertaking. During the year the supply has been adequate in quantity and first-class in quality.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Nuisances.—The number of nuisances for which notices were served on owners and occupiers was 6,034, as against 5,212 in 1942.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926—Three samples of feeding stuffs and nine samples of fertilisers were obtained during the year.

Canal Boats.—During the year 46 visits of inspection were made to canal boats on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal in the Borough. One written notice was served during the year, and five infringements were remedied. Bootle is not a Registration Authority under the Public Health Act, 1936 (Sec. 249).

Verminous Infestation.—The procedure adopted for dealing with dwelling-houses infested by bed bugs has been described in previous Annual Reports and during the year 70 municipal houses and 28 privately-owned houses required and received disinfestation.

Special arrangements were made in respect of thirty of the municipal houses in cases where thorough disinfestation could not be secured with the tenant remaining in occupation. For this purpose a requisitioned house was utilised as temporary accommodation for these families while their own house, furniture and effects received treatment, and the following procedure was adopted: the vacated municipal house is thoroughly disinfested, and only necessary woodwork, plasterwork, etc., is replaced, all that can be dispensed with, *e.g.*, picture rails and skirtings being removed; the tenant's furniture and effects are treated with hydrocyanic acid and the bedding steam-disinfested before removal to the temporary dwelling, and on completion of disinfestation of the former dwelling the furniture, etc., is returned there. After return periodic inspections are made both by a Sanitary Inspector and the Housing Estate Manager, and between February 1943 and the end of the year no instance of re-infestation was found, and a general improvement in the standard of cleanliness was effected.

Houses found to be infested by cockroaches were also dealt with as described in earlier reports, and 62 municipal houses and 2 privately-owned houses were so treated during the year.

RAT INFESTATION.

At the instance of the Ministry of Food and following the receipt of a Direction under the Infestation Order 1943, preliminary investigations as to the incidence of rat infestation were conducted in the autumn, and reports on certain reservoir areas, prepared by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, were submitted to the Infestation Branch of the Ministry of Food. A systematic campaign directed in the first instance to reducing the number of surface rats was embarked upon, and the Chief

Sanitary Inspector was placed in charge of a large temporary staff who were employed in surveying and baiting on somewhat new lines based on experimental work carried out by the Bureau of Animal Population at Oxford, and employing methods which had already been used successfully in the docks and warehouses of the Port of London. An attractive unpoisoned bait is laid in the infested areas and after a few days this is followed by a bait poisoned with zinc phosphide, arsenious oxide or barium carbonate. Most of the rats die in their runs, although when zinc phosphide is used a number may be found lying in the open. The third step, to ascertain whether any rats remain, is to lay a final series of unpoisoned baits and note the number taken as compared with those taken in the first series.

The active campaign against surface rats falls for the most part into the early months of 1944, and results of that campaign and the subsequent measures to deal with sewer rats will be the subject of report next year.

IV. SANITARY CONTROL OF THE FOOD SUPPLY.

MILK SUPPLY.

Source of Milk Supply.—That portion of the milk supply of the Borough not brought by rail or road is derived from cows kept in shippons, of which there are now owing to war conditions only two in the town; the cows number 25, two less than last year, as compared with a figure for 1914 of about 550. The shippons received the careful attention of the Inspector, who paid in all 28 visits.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—Milk and Dairies Regulations 1926 *to* 1943.—There are 25 premises registered as dairies or milkshops in the Borough, and 2 premises registered as cow-sheds, and there are 50 registered retail purveyors of bottle milk only. One hundred and eighty-eight visits of inspection were made to cowsheds, dairies and milkshops during the year; on the whole it may be said that these premises are maintained in a satisfactory state.

Cleanliness and Safety of Milk.—The Milk (Special Designations) Order which came into force on June 1st 1936, prescribed the following special designations for milk, namely:—Tuberculin Tested, Accredited, and Pasteurised.

At the end of 1943 there was one Bootle dairyman holding a licence to produce Accredited milk, and three to produce Pasteurised milk.

With the object of promoting the cleanliness and safety of the local supply bacteriological examination of milk samples has not been limited to the designated milks, and 65 examinations in all were made during the year.

Milk and Tuberculosis.—The results of bacteriological examination of 49 samples of milk showed that three samples were infected with tubercle bacilli; appropriate action was taken.

Pasteurised Milk.—During the past year in Bootle three licences were renewed for the production of pasteurised milk. The number of milk samples obtained from these three licence holders during 1943 was 34, of which 22 conformed to the requirements of the Ministry of Health. Twelve samples of pasteurised milk were submitted for examination by the phosphatase test, all except one of which were found to be efficiently pasteurised.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Butchers' Shops, etc.—Supervision of the materials and methods in foodshops, bakehouses, and factories, continued to be exercised by the Department on lines as indicated in previous Annual Reports.

Foods and Drugs Act 1938.—The Public Analyst, to whom samples are submitted, is Mr. W. H. Roberts, M.Sc., F.I.C.

During the year 208 samples were taken, of which 18, or 8·6 per cent., were adulterated or not up to standard. One hundred and thirty-eight of these were taken informally, and in cases where adulteration was detected formal samples were subsequently obtained in order that the necessary legal action might be instituted. One hundred and twenty-two samples of milk were obtained, of which fifty-five were taken informally; in the other 67 cases, however, the procedure prescribed by the Act was carried out. Ten of the samples of milk (6 formal, 4 informal) were found to be adulterated.

In respect of six formal samples of milk found to be adulterated legal proceedings were instituted in five instances. In the remaining case the adulteration was slight and the vendor was interviewed and cautioned.

The results of the five prosecutions are as under:—

1. Milk containing 7 per cent. added water; vendor fined £1 10s. 0d. with £1 1s. 0d. costs.

2. Milk containing 8 per cent. added water; vendor fined £1 10s. 0d. with £1 1s. 0d. costs.

3. Milk containing 13 per cent. added water; vendor fined £2 2s. 0d. with £4 4s. 0d. costs.

4. Milk deprived of 11 per cent. of its milk fat; case dismissed.

5. Milk deprived of 8 per cent. of its milk fat; case dismissed.

A dairyman was prosecuted on two charges of obstruction and one for storing milk in a kitchen contrary to the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1926-1943. He was fined £5 0s. 0d. in all, with 10/6 costs.

In respect of other foodstuffs found to be adulterated or not up to standard, legal proceedings were instituted against two vendors of samples of egg substitute powder which were found to be infested with acari and unfit for human consumption, the cases being heard in February 1944. Two cases were referred to the Food Enforcement Officer, one being in respect of a sample of jam deficient in soluble solids, and the other in respect of a sample of sausage deficient in meat content. A manufacturer was cautioned for selling non-brewed vinegar slightly deficient in acetic acid.

The total number of samples obtained of milk produced outside the district was 103, of which 69 were taken in course of delivery.

Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925-1927.—A total of 164 samples was examined under these Regulations for the presence of preservatives, including 122 of milk. All the samples were found to be correct.

V. PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year is summarised below.

There was no notification of small-pox, cholera, plague, typhus fever, relapsing or continued fever, trench fever, puerperal pyrexia, malaria, poliomyelitis, or encephalitis lethargica.

	Cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Deaths.
Enteric Fever	4	2	1
Scarlet Fever	130	79	—
Diphtheria	224	223	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	1
Erysipelas	26	8	—
Measles	295	8	—
Whooping Cough	79	3	2
Infantile Diarrhoea (under two years) voluntarily notifiable ...	7	1	18
Influenzal Pneumonia	11	6	19
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	88	23	38
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	15	15	—
*Tuberculosis—			
(a) Pulmonary	157	80	57
(b) Non-Pulmonary	29	16	7

* Primary notifications.

SCARLET FEVER.

Incidence.—The relatively low incidence of scarlet fever prevailing since 1939 continued throughout the year. The total cases for the year numbered 130, constituting an incidence of 2·6 per 1,000 of the estimated population. There were no deaths.

In each of three houses two cases of scarlet fever occurred, and in two houses there were three cases.

Hospital Isolation in Scarlet Fever.—Seventy-nine cases, representing 61 per cent. of the notifications, were admitted to the Liverpool Isolation Hospitals during the year.

DIPHTHERIA.

Incidence.—There was a fall in the incidence of diphtheria from the figure of the previous year, and in all 224 cases were notified as compared with 289 during 1942, and an average of 250 for the ten years ended 1942. The incidence was 4·5 per 1,000 of the estimated population, and the case fatality 1·3 per cent. Two hundred and twenty-three of those notified were removed to Liverpool Isolation Hospitals during the year.

The occurrence of a secondary case of diphtheria in an infected household was recorded on fourteen occasions, and the occurrence of a third case on one occasion.

Mortality.—There were 3 deaths from diphtheria during the year, giving a mortality rate of 0·06 per 1,000 as compared with 0·00 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

Prevention.—During 1932 a scheme was inaugurated whereby an offer of immunisation against diphtheria was made to the parents of infants and young children in the Borough. During the year, a total of 1,713 children (compared with 2,260 during 1942) completed the series of inoculations, making with those inoculated in preceding years a grand total of 11,429.

The following table shows year by year, since the inauguration of the scheme, the number of children completing the series of inoculations:—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Age at date of inoculation.	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	Total.
Under one year	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	3	2	1	4	4	Under five years — 1722
1-2 years ...	6	5	36	34	31	32	46	44	43	45	196	314	
2-3 ,, ...	12	11	39	75	40	48	46	46	46	64	239	250	
3-4 ,, ...	15	22	62	70	47	46	33	49	29	108	208	156	
4-5 ,, ...	18	28	43	55	46	35	33	37	22	76	209	193	
5-6 ,, ...	142	242	311	279	278	191	334	66	15	213	405	338	5-10 years — 3466
6-7 ,, ...	237	224	194	267	232	261	190	199	4	440	290	135	
7-8 ,, ...	45	242	35	40	21	40	23	10	6	115	135	56	
8-9 ,, ...	4	62	12	10	14	12	9	7	3	44	101	52	
9-10 ,, ...	2	20	9	6	4	3	1	6	—	28	52	41	
10-11 ,, ...	1	1	3	10	7	4	4	1	1	45	90	52	10-15 years — 4041
11-12 ,, ...	—	2	5	10	4	1	4	4	1	50	56	45	
12-13 ,, ...	—	1	1	4	7	2	—	1	—	38	80	38	
13-14 ,, ...	—	—	3	2	4	—	1	—	—	36	96	22	
14-15 ,, ...	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	30	58	15	
15 years & over	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	2	1807
Age not known	100	120	19	2	76	29	20	5	—	9	13	—	393
TOTALS	582	980	773	865	812	705	747	478	172	1342	2260	1713	11,429

OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Influenza.—Eleven notifications of influenzal pneumonia were received, and nineteen deaths from influenza were recorded.

Measles.—Under the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1940, 295 cases of measles were notified; there were no deaths.

Whooping Cough.—Whooping Cough caused two deaths during 1943, compared with 2 in 1942 and 24 in 1941. The death-rate was 0·04 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 0·03 throughout England and Wales. The number of cases notified during the year was 79.

Diarrhoea.—Deaths from this disease numbered eighteen, or a rate of 0·36 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 0·26 last year. Sixteen of the deaths occurred in infants under one year of age, giving a rate per 1,000 births of 12·1 in Bootle.

VI. TUBERCULOSIS.

Notification Register.—The register on 31st December 1943 included 237 males and 257 females suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, and 104 males and 159 females suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, making a total of 757 cases, as compared with 751 at the end of 1942 and 696 at the end of 1941.

Incidence.—The total number of new cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during 1943 was 186, as compared with the figures of 201, 184, 162, 150, 142 and 169 in the years from 1937 onwards.

Mortality.—The number of deaths caused by tuberculosis during 1943 was 64, or one death in every eleven, giving a death-rate from this cause of 1·28 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 1·37 in 1942, and 1·62 in 1941; it was 1·27 for the ten years ended 1942. The recorded figure is thus still above the experience of the years immediately before the outbreak of war.

Period.	Bootle		England & Wales.
	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.	Rate per 1,000.
1891-1900 ...	1106	2·17	2·01
1901-1910 ...	1127	1·76	1·65
1911-1920 ..	1370	1·82	1·42
1921-1925 ...	652	1·70	1·08
1926-1930 ...	572	1·49	0·94
1931-1935 ...	537	1·39	0·81
1936-1940 ...	411	1·12	0·67
1941 ...	85	1·62	0·73
1942 ...	63	1·37	0·65
1943	64	1·28	0·67

Dispensary Register.—A register is maintained of all cases of tuberculosis receiving public medical treatment. On 31st December 1943 the number of definite cases on the register was 448, as against 434 on 1st January 1943.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Incidence.—One hundred and fifty-seven new cases suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1943, an increase of 24 over the previous year; the number includes 25 cases not formally notified. The numbers notified in the five preceding years were 127, 115, 121, 105, and 133 respectively. In the case of five the first intimation was obtained from the death returns, while in twenty other cases notification was made at intervals of less than three months before death. The non-notified deaths, therefore, numbered 8·8 per cent. of the total of 57 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Mortality.—During the year 57 deaths were certified to be due to pulmonary tuberculosis, representing a rate of 1·14 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 1·19 in 1942, and 1·46 in 1941. There were 34 deaths among males and 23 among females.

Chest Clinic.—During the year the Tuberculosis Officer examined 335 patients newly referred; 230 patients were sent by private practitioners, 9 by the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic Medical Officers,

46 by Army Medical Boards, and 50 by the School Medical Officers for opinion preliminary to notification. Attention continued to be paid to securing the attendance for examination of contacts of notified cases, and during the year 71 were so examined.

The total attendances at the Clinic during the year numbered 2,429, and 1,700 visits for various other purposes were made in addition; 546 specimens of sputum were examined, giving a positive result in 52 cases. The Tuberculosis Visitors made 1,520 visits to homes of tuberculous patients.

During the year 673 X-ray examinations were made at the Bootle General Hospital.

Maghull Sanatorium.—During the year 29 patients were admitted to the Sanatorium with an average length of stay of 273 days for the 32 cases discharged during the year. At the end of the year there were 11 males and 7 females in the Sanatorium. In addition, 51 other cases were admitted to hospitals outside the Borough.

MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES.

The Ministry of Health, in April 1943, issued Memorandum 266/T on the Government's scheme for tuberculosis authorities to grant allowances to certain classes of patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and to their dependants. The object of these allowances, which are refunded by the Government, is primarily to assist those patients who, on the advice of the tuberculosis officer, give up remunerative work in order to undergo treatment.

As the allowances are provided for the purpose of securing suitable treatment, they are conditional on a patient undergoing the form of treatment prescribed, whether in an institution or at home, conforming to any advice given to him for preventing the spread of infection, and attending at the Chest Clinic for examination as required.

Assistance consists of (a) national standard weekly maintenance allowances, (b) discretionary allowances, and (c) special payments. The standard maintenance allowances are primarily for persons with dependants whose source of income ceases when treatment is undertaken; discretionary allowances, on proof of need, may be paid to meet

any standing charges such as high rent, hire purchase instalments, premiums on life assurance, expenses on education of children, etc.; certain special payments may be granted also at the discretion of the authority when satisfied that particular liabilities cannot without hardship be met out of the resources of the patient and his household.

The scheme was put into operation in the Borough on 3rd July 1943, and by the end of the year 41 applications for maintenance allowances had been granted, the total disbursed having amounted to £1,066; In addition special payments were made for the provision of pocket money to 15 patients in sanatoria, and with these and other allowances the total expenditure was £1,126 12s. 9d.

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 29 new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, as compared with 36 in 1942 and 37 in 1941, namely:—4 bones and joints, 3 abdomen, 15 glands, and 7 meninges; and there were seven deaths registered. The agreement with the Leasowe Hospital for Children for the maintenance of beds for children suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis remained in force, and at the beginning of the year nine cases were in hospital; 4 cases were admitted, 5 were discharged, and 8 were remaining in hospital at the end of the year.

The scheme for admission to general or special hospitals of cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, and for payment by the Council of the charges for maintenance and treatment in cases recommended or approved by the Tuberculosis Officer, was continued; during the year 12 such patients were admitted.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.—No action was taken under the above Regulations relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

Public Health Act, 1936: *Section* 172.—No action was taken under this Section dealing with the compulsory removal of cases of tuberculosis to hospital.

VII. VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Council's scheme for the treatment and control of Venereal Diseases remains as described in previous reports, and there was a

sustained national and local publicity campaign directed to secure the avoidance of infection or alternatively the continuance of efficient treatment.

The Annual Statistical Report of the Medical Officer of the Treatment Centre shows 459 persons under treatment on 31st December 1943, as against 298 on 1st January 1943, and a substantial increase in new cases, the figure being 379 as contrasted with 307 in 1942.

The total attendances for treatment made at the Centre during the year show an increase from 9,698 to 12,436; the figure includes 3,269 attendances made between clinic days for the treatment of gonorrhoea at the irrigation centre. The average attendance at the male clinics was 33, and at the female clinics 25. During 1943 97 cases were discharged on completion of treatment and observation, as against 85 in the previous year.

The table below is a statement of the number of cases presenting themselves for treatment during the last five years:—

Bootle Venereal Diseases Clinic.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
New Cases (total)	272	284	315	307	379
New Cases (syphilis)	50	41	78	101	118
New Cases (gonorrhoea)	130	129	129	115	113
Total attendances (excluding Irrigation Department)	8492	6789	5302	7071	9167
Irrigation Department attendances	2447	1273	1573	2627	3269
In-patient Days	76	Nil	41	132	176
No. discharged after completion of observation and treatment	102	124	124	85	97
No. who ceased to attend after completion of treatment, but before final tests as to cure	61	21	26	1	1

The table above illustrates certain changes in the epidemiology of venereal disease which have been observed recently in the large treatment centres of the country, although in view of the small numbers dealt with locally it would be unwise to present the Bootle figures as anything more than illustrative of the trend of the changes. In the first place, formerly there were about four cases of gonorrhea to one of syphilis—last year locally the proportion was 113 to 118: secondly, this change has been produced by a large increase in syphilis concurrently with a slight decrease in gonorrhea—and it has been pointed out that it is difficult to accept any explanation of this other than that the

efficiency of the new treatment of this latter disease by sulphonamides has in fact reduced the number of infective individuals; thirdly, the large increase in the amount of early syphilis (a trebling locally during the war) and the increase in non-venereal conditions amongst the new patients of the clinics indicate freer indulgence in promiscuous sexual intercourse.

The position above described has received attention in various ways. The national publicity campaign sponsored by the Minister of Health has been supported by local advertisements and press articles, and advantage has been taken of intimations of suspected sources of infection to endeavour to bring the infecting agent under treatment: such endeavours have recently been regularised by the Council, on the advice of the Ministry of Health, formally directing certain officers with special experience to undertake this work. In addition such officers are improving the "follow-up" practice of the clinics by visiting persistent defaulters from treatment to persuade them to receive attention: during February and March, 1944, 87 such visits were paid, and resumption of attendance was secured in 42 of these cases.

Bootle residents accounted for 32 per cent. of the cases under treatment at the Bootle Hospital Centre, the Authorities contributing the next largest numbers of cases being Liverpool with 26 per cent. and the Lancashire County Council with 25 per cent.

VIII. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

EVACUATION.

There was no occasion during the year for any large scale or hurried evacuation of mothers and young children, but there was a steady acceptance of the arrangements described in previous reports for the temporary transfer to institutions in the Fylde area of mothers for their confinement and of the children under five years of age belonging to those mothers. During the year ended 31st December 1943 149 expectant mothers and 74 children under five were so evacuated; in addition 27 children under five, with special home circumstances, were admitted for indefinite stay in residential nurseries elsewhere.

ASSISTANCE FROM SPECIAL CHARITABLE FUNDS.

The scheme made possible by the allocation of £600 from the British War Relief Society of U.S.A. and a similar donation of £50

from the People of Luanshya, Northern Rhodesia, outlined in my Annual Report last year continued to operate throughout the year on the lines therein indicated. Although there has been difficulty in obtaining supplies of perambulators, by the end of 1943 169 had been issued; the cost of these to the Fund was £909, but as recipients, after interview by Mrs. Alderman Smith, Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee, are usually assessed to pay part cost there was a substantial balance in hand at the end of the year which will enable the Fund to continue its beneficial activities.

STAFF IN RECEPTION AREAS.

The staff on loan in reception areas has been progressively reduced with the return of evacuees, although one school nurse remained seconded for duty in Radnorshire until October, and the part-time services of medical, dental, and nursing staffs of the Committee continued to be available in Southport throughout the year. In December all the above staff were withdrawn leaving only the Matron, the Sister, and one midwife from the Maternity Home loaned to the Emergency Maternity Home established by the Ministry of Health at Poulton-le-Fylde.

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL SERVICES.

Home Visiting of Expectant Mothers.—A very great deal can be done to promote normal childbirth by careful instruction as to general and personal hygiene and as to the need for suitable food, open air, exercise and rest, adequate sleep, and properly devised clothing. The Health Visitors paid 993 home visits and the Municipal Midwives paid 2,142 home visits to expectant mothers.

Ante-Natal Clinics.—Four Ante-Natal Consultations were held each week. In all 939 new cases attended, corresponding to 71 per cent. of the total registered births; in addition, 219 cases carried over from the preceding year continued under supervision, and a total of 3,964 attendances was made, with an average of 19·3 persons per consultation. Further, it should be noted that patients intending to enter Walton Hospital for confinement usually attend the Ante-Natal Clinic held at that Institution.

Dental Treatment of Expectant and Nursing Mothers.—At the end of the year two half-days weekly were being devoted to the dental

treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and the treatment given during the year has been in the nature of extractions and the supply of artificial dentures.

The number of patients treated during the year was 119, as compared with 92 in 1942, and the estimated cost of dentures supplied was £71 3s. 6d., of which the patients' contributions were assessed at £46 8s. 6d.

MATERNAL WELFARE.

Regulations of the Central Midwives' Board require medical help to be sought by the midwife in all cases of illness of the patient, or the child, or of any abnormality occurring during pregnancy, labour, or lying-in, and 118 records of sending for medical help were received.

Under the 1918 Act the Local Supervising Authority is responsible for the payment of fees to doctors called in by midwives, and in 1943 65 accounts, totalling £105 10s. 0d., in respect of cases where the doctor himself was unable to recover the fee, were sent in, as compared with 37 accounts, totalling £65 2s. 0d., in 1942. Of this sum, the contributions to be recovered from the patients were assessed at £53 5s. 0d.

Milk Assistance Scheme.—The Council's Milk Assistance Scheme, under which dried milk is granted to expectant mothers and infants, was continued in full until 21st August, 1940, on which date the scheme of the Ministry of Food for issuing National Dried Milk began to operate, with the result that the need for the Council's Scheme almost disappeared. Arrangements were made locally for the distribution of National Dried Milk to be made principally through the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics of the Local Authority as was the practice under the Council's Scheme.

Milk to the value of £918 0s. 7d. and Maltoline, Virol, Virolax and Emulsion to the value of £322 15s. 0d., making a total cost of £1,240 15s. 7d., was sold or issued free under the Council's Scheme, and under the Ministry of Food Scheme 14,763 packets (20 ounce size) were sold at 1s. 2d. each and 4,551 packets were issued free on an income scale basis.

Institutional Provision for Maternity Cases.—Last year 464 patients were delivered in Walton Hospital at the cost of the Public Assistance

Committee, 133 in the Fylde Emergency Institutions, and in addition 105 patients were delivered in voluntary hospitals. The total of 702 represents 53 per cent. of the births registered during the year, as compared with 67 per cent. during 1942.

Maternity Home.—The Municipal Maternity Home remained closed, but the Emergency Maternity Institutions in the Fylde area placed at the disposal of the Council by the Ministry of Health continued to be available and to be well used; during the year 149 patients were admitted. These Maternity Homes were administered by the Lancashire County Council but the nursing supervision was in the hands of Bootle staff, and contact was maintained by monthly visits of members of the Council.

Puerperal Morbidity and Mortality.—There were no deaths from puerperal fever, but three deaths were due to other puerperal causes. The circumstances of the confinements were investigated by the Medical Officer of Health, and confidential reports (not identifying the patients) were sent to the Departmental Committee on Maternal Mortality set up by the Ministry of Health.

The deaths thus classified to pregnancy and child-birth give a maternal mortality rate of 2·19 per 1,000 (live and still) births, and although there have been fluctuations in this rate, the local experience is, in general, more favourable than that of the country as a whole.

MUNICIPAL MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

The eight whole-time midwives of the Municipal Midwifery Service attended 608 patients during the year, delivering 541 as midwives and assisting in 67 other instances as maternity nurses. Midwives book their own patients and are responsible for their ante-natal care from that date.

It will be seen that including maternity cases delivered in Walton Hospital and the Fylde Emergency Institutions, the municipality was responsible during 1943 for the conduct of 94 per cent. of the maternity work of the Borough.

CHILD WELFARE.

Notification of Births.—The number of births notified under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as adjusted by transferred notifications totalled 1,301 live births and 34 still births.

Births Registered.—The number of live births registered in the district was 601, from which 8 are to be deducted as born in Bootle to residents of other districts, and to which are to be added 734 births to Bootle parents temporarily out of the town; the corrected figure is therefore 1,327. Of the number registered 88 were illegitimate.

The number of still births registered was 42, as against 41 for 1942.

Infant Deaths.—There were 101 deaths of infants under the age of twelve months, which total expressed as a rate of 1,000 births gives an infant mortality rate of 76, compared with 72 during 1942.

The trend of infant mortality in recent years is set out in the following table :—

Years	BOOTLE	England and Wales
1901-05	166	138
1906-10	130	117
1911-15	133	110
1916-20	103	91
1921-25	91	76
1926-30	89	68
1931-35	87	62
1936	68	59
1937	77	58
1938	81	53
1939	65	50
1940	80	55
1941	108	59
1942	72	49
1943	76	49

Mortality was highest during the fourth quarter, with 35 deaths registered as against 19 in the corresponding quarter of 1942. In the first three quarters, 26, 17, and 23 deaths respectively were registered; 58 were males, and 43 females.

The most important of the causes of death were :—pneumonia 36, diarrhoea and enteritis 15, prematurity 13, convulsions 9, congenital malformation 5, and atrophy, debility and marasmus 4.

The rate of infantile mortality among legitimate infants was 77, and among illegitimate infants it was 57.

Neo-Natal Mortality.—Eighteen children died before they were a week old, and a total of 34, or 33·7 per cent., of all the deaths under one year, occurred in children under the age of one month. This is a neo-natal mortality rate of 25·6 per 1,000 births.

Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1926 *to* 1937. One case of ophthalmia neonatorum was notified during the year compared with two in 1942; the infant died at home 18 days after birth.

Home Visitation of Infants.—There are nine officers on the Health visiting staff, some of whom, however, are also engaged in the school medical and tuberculosis services; the establishment is, therefore, equivalent to seven visitors giving their whole time to Maternity and Child Welfare duties in Bootle. This staff paid 19,164 home visits in all, including 6,930 visits to infants under one year, an average of 5·2 visits to each infant.

Supervision of Young Children by Health Visitors.—During the year the Health Visitors paid 10,425 home visits to children from one to five years.

Infant Welfare Clinics.—During the year four infant clinic sessions were conducted weekly.

The following tabular statement gives the numbers of new infants presented for examination and advice, and the total yearly and average attendances at each Clinic:—

Clinic.	New Cases.			Attendances.				
	Under one year.	One to five years	Total.	Under one year.	One to five years.	Total.	No. of Sessions	Average attendance at clinic.
Health Centre—								
Monday afternoon ..	166	48	214	1789	286	2075	48	43 2
Wednesday afternoon	316	44	360	2854	399	3253	52	62·6
Thursday afternoon .	149	42	191	1179	212	1391	52	23·6
School Medical Offices—								
Tuesday afternoon ..	227	61	288	2187	296	2483	52	47·8
Totals ...	858	195	1053	8009	1193	9202	204	45·1

Supply of Cod Liver Oil and Fruit Juices.—The scheme of the Ministry of Food for distribution of fruit juices and cod liver oil to mothers and young children was continued during the year, and this valuable supplement to the vitamin content of their diet is now available, free or on payment, in respect of cod liver oil to children who have not attained the age of five years, and in respect of fruit juices to children who have not attained the age of two years. On 1st December 1942 the full benefits of the scheme became available to expectant mothers.

During the year the following were the total issues made through the Council's clinics:—

	Infants (0-5 years).		*Expectant Mothers.*		
	Free.	*Sold.*	*Free*	*Sold.*	*Totals.*
Cod Liver Oil ...	2414	4974	185	511	8084
Orange Juice ...	6344	26578	670	3649	37241
Tablets (C.L.O.)	—	—	81	606	687

These figures, although showing a substantial increase during the year, indicate that in spite of continuous persuasive efforts there are a large number of mothers who do not avail themselves of this excellent scheme.

Nursing in the Home.—By agreement the services of the Bootle District Nurses Association are available for the nursing in their own homes of patients suffering from puerperal fever, measles, whooping cough, epidemic diarrhoea, ophthalmia neonatorum, pneumonia, and poliomyelitis. During the year 2,109 visits were paid to 182 cases.

Convalescent Home Provision.—The usual provision was made in the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee's estimates for grants towards the cost of treatment in convalescent homes for children under the age of five years. During the year, 17 children under five years of age and 61 children over that age received such convalescent treatment.

Child Life Protection.—The powers in respect of the reception of children under the age of nine years for reward conferred on the Council by the Public Health Act, 1936, are administered through the Health Visitors, who supervised the general health and well-being of three such children who were on the register on 31st December 1943.

Care of Illegitimate Children.—The Ministry of Health in Circular 2866, dated 1st October 1943, called the attention of Welfare Authorities to problems arising under war conditions with regard to illegitimate children and asked for the submission of proposals to deal with them.

The numbers of illegitimate births registered in the Borough in recent years from 1937 onwards have been as follows:—63, 46, 49, 47, 51, and 69; and during the year 1943 they were 88.

It has always been the local practice for the medical and health visiting staff to act in collaboration with the various voluntary bodies interested in moral welfare, but the Council decided to systematise this work by deputing one of the health visiting staff, who had familiarised herself with the special problems to be handled, to act as the executive officer responsible to the Medical Officer of Health for all necessary and possible action to help the unmarried mother and to safeguard the illegitimate child. This health visitor will receive early information derived from midwives, clinics, hospitals, maternity homes, and social workers, of cases where illegitimate children are to be or have been born; she will then co-operate with the particular Moral Welfare Association concerned dealing, amongst other matters, with the securing of suitable accommodation before and after confinement, obtaining an affiliation order, finding employment, finding a suitable foster mother if separation of mother and baby is necessary, securing a place in residential nursery or home, and giving advice about legal adoption.

This scheme was formally instituted in January 1944, and experience has shown the advantage of placing this work in the hands of a health visitor known to the mothers in other connections.

Cleanliness of Young Children.—The Ministry of Health in Circular 2831, dated 2nd July 1943, requested that attention should be given to the following points amongst others in the work of health visitors:—

(1) Education of mothers in the importance of cleanliness and freedom from vermin;

(2) Examination of heads of children under five years of age, in the homes and in the clinics, concentrating on those homes known to be in most need of help; and

(3) Instruction of adolescent girls in the care of the hair.

There are obvious difficulties in rigid compliance with these suggestions as the health visitors must retain the goodwill of the mothers of their districts in order to secure their co-operation in the many other phases of their work of equal importance, but attention has been given to this question of cleanliness, and the following table, which for several reasons should not be interpreted as an accurate measure of the state of cleanliness of children in the Borough, sets out the results noted in the period ended 31st December 1943:—

(a) Inspection in Homes.

	0-1 years.	1-3 years.	3-5 years.
Number examined	1270 ...	989 ...	989
No. with few "nits"	30 ...	47 ...	96
No. with "nits" more numerous	— ...	25 ...	41
No. with lice and "nits" ...	— ...	9 ...	25

(b) Inspection in Clinics.

	0-1 years.	1-3 years.	3-5 years.
Number examined	251 ...	102 ...	78
No. with few "nits"	4 ...	4 ...	14
No. with "nits" more numerous	— ...	— ...	—
No. with lice and "nits" ...	— ...	— ...	3

The Liverpool Child Welfare Association.—This Association has continued to send workers to Bootle on five mornings each week to facilitate the arrangements for dealing with recommendations of the medical staff of the Council or private doctors for the provision of surgical appliances, clothing, fireguards, cod liver oil, extra nourishment, or convalescent home treatment, to infants and school children.

IX. HOUSING.

Estimate of Housing Needs.—The last Annual Report gave details under several headings showing that a responsible estimate of present housing needs approximates to 3,000 houses, with an ultimate requirement which will be determined later by the nature and extent of replanning, of the order of 7,000. The peculiar difficulties of the borough whereby other than piecemeal building must be deferred until substantial progress has been made with the Rimrose Brook drainage scheme, are receiving the special attention of the Council.

Inspection of War-Damaged Houses.—A statement has been filed showing the effects of enemy action on housing, and all that falls to be reported here is a note on the work of the Sanitary Inspectors arising therefrom.

In addition to primary inspections of war damaged houses by the Department of the Borough Engineer, inspections of such houses were made by the Sanitary Inspectors. During the year visits were paid to 118 houses in private ownership in respect of war damage, and a report and recommendation suitable to the conditions found in each case was forwarded to the Borough Engineer for his attention.

Further, 123 houses requisitioned for accommodating families rendered homeless were inspected and reports on conditions found together with recommendations were forwarded to the Town Clerk and the Borough Engineer. In addition, 42 houses were inspected under the Landlord and Tenant (War Damage) Acts, 1939 and 1941, and certificates were issued in 39 cases.

X. BLIND WELFARE.

The duties of the Council under the Blind Persons Act, 1920, are administered in accordance with a revised scheme and regulations which received the approval of the Minister of Health in April 1934.

Registration.—During the year the Council's Ophthalmic Surgeon held five clinics and examined 24 cases. From this total of 24 examinations 16 cases were added to the register of blind persons; and there were also 6 transfer cases added. Twenty-one names were removed, 11 owing to death, 9 to removal outside the Borough, and one following decertification, leaving a total on the register at the end of 1943 of 152 persons as compared with 151 last year.

Employment and Instruction.—The registered blind are assisted and supervised by two Home Teachers giving the whole of their time to this work; during the year the Home Teachers paid 867 visits, gave 23 lessons at home, and disbursed the weekly money payments to necessitous cases; in addition, 102 visits and 17 lessons were given to evacuated blind persons in Southport.

During the year efforts were continued in conjunction with the local office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service to obtain

employment on work of national importance for selected blind persons. At the end of the year seven were so employed as a result of these and other efforts.

The Council took over from the Liverpool Home Teaching Society on 1st April 1943 the direct payment of money grants to unemployable blind persons, and on December 31st 1943 was assisting 80 unemployable blind (excluding blind evacuees) with money grants at a total weekly cost of £98 2s. 11d., the amount of relief being given varying from 1/- to 34/6 and 35/- weekly (excluding sighted dependants allowance), for males and females respectively, with the maximum being paid in eight cases (5 males and 3 females). In addition, fifteen persons (14 males and one female) are employed at the Blind Workshops.

During the year fourteen applications for the certification of blindness in order to take advantage of the Wireless Telegraphy (Blind Persons Facilities) Act, 1926, were granted.

Domiciliary Medical Attendance.—In May 1937 the Council instituted a Domiciliary Medical Service for the (non-insured) registered blind by arrangement with local medical practitioners who agreed to enter their names on a panel and to provide medical attendance for a capitation fee of the same amount as that obtaining under the National Health Insurance Acts; necessary prescriptions are dispensed by a similar panel of private chemists. The scheme works smoothly and satisfactorily, and the cost to the Council for the financial year 1943-44 is estimated to be £55.

Provision of Wireless Installations.—In October 1942 negotiations were completed with the local Wireless Relay Service for the provision of wireless installation for all blind persons in the Borough, the charge for any new loud speakers being borne by the British Wireless for the Blind Fund. The service has been much appreciated. and it is estimated that the annual cost will be approximately £80.

Evacuation of Blind Persons.—At the end of 1943 there were 105 blind persons resident in Bootle out of the 152 on the register; the following statement shows the disposition of the remainder:—

20 evacuated under scheme to Southport.
4 privately evacuated, or with friends outside Bootle.
7 in schools outside Bootle.
16 in outside institutions.

—

47

—

At the end of the year 18 of the blind persons evacuated to Southport were accommodated in a detached house suitably adapted and furnished to serve as a Hostel, and one of the two Bootle Home Teachers was seconded to assist in the supervision of their welfare.

Post-War Housing of the Blind.—Apart from the war conditions leading to evacuation of blind persons from the Borough and to the break-up of homes which they had been occupying, reports of Home Teachers have revealed that there remain in the Borough a number of blind persons whose housing accommodation cannot be accepted as satisfactory. It seemed desirable, therefore, that some steps should be taken to provide suitable alternative accommodation in the Borough as soon as possible after the termination of the War, and the wishes of the evacuated persons were ascertained as to whether they would prefer to make their own arrangements for accommodation as before, in houses or rooms in the Borough, or in a Hostel provided by the Council; enquiries showed that there was a demand for Hostel accommodation for some twenty individuals, and a scheme was accordingly prepared for the adaptation and furnishing of suitable premises which could serve the purpose both of a Social Centre and a Hostel. The Council approved these proposals in principle and necessary action is being taken in connection therewith.

APPENDIX 1.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1943.

Causes of Death	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District
	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 & under 25 years	25 & under 45 years	45 & under 65 years	65 and upward	
All causes { Certified	740	101	8	6	12	26	67	215	305	105
All causes { Uncertified	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	—
Enteric Fever	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
Whooping Cough	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
Diphtheria and Croup	3	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1
Influenza	19	3	..	..	1	..	2	7	6	2
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	57	..	..	..	..	12	17	24	4	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	5	..	1	1	2	1	..	..	..	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	...
Cancer, malignant disease	88	..	..	..	..	..	5	40	43	5
Rheumatic Fever	3	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	...
Meningitis	4	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	...
Organic Heart Disease	129	..	..	..	1	4	9	33	82	9
Bronchitis	42	3	..	..	..	..	2	14	23	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	83	36	..	..	1	1	3	22	20	11
Other diseases of respiratory organs ...	8	..	..	1	..	1	3	3	...	2
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	18	16	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
Alcoholism	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	22	1	..	..	..	..	2	8	11	5
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	22	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ...	35	..	1	1	4	3	6	12	8	35
Suicide	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	...	..	...
Other Defined Diseases	195	16	2	..	2	2	12	51	110	22
Diseases ill defined or unknown ...	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	...
Totals	745	101	8	6	12	26	68	217	307	105

SUB-ENTRIES INCLUDED IN ABOVE FIGURES

Cerebro-spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Broncho-pneumonia	45	26	..	..	..	..	1	11	7	4
Venereal Diseases..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	39	..	..	..	..	..	2	11	26	6
Arteric-Sclerosis	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	..
Senile Decay	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	..
Tetanus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
General Paralysis of Insane	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Aneurism	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Locomotor Ataxy	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

APPENDIX 2.

INFANT MORTALITY.

1943. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes (Certified ... ...)	18	7	6	3	34	29	25	10	3	101
All Causes (Uncertified ... ..)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Diphtheria and Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (*not Tuberculous*)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Convulsions	1	1	—	—	2	3	4	—	—	9
Laryngitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	3	1	1	7	13	9	5	2	36
Diarrhœa	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	9	4	1	1	15
Gastritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation, overlying	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at Birth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	3	—	1	—	4	—	1	—	—	5
Premature Birth	9	2	1	—	12	1	—	—	—	13
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...	—	—	1	2	3	—	1	—	—	4
Other Causes	3	1	1	—	5	2	3	2	—	12
Totals	18	7	6	3	34	29	25	10	3	101

Nett Births in the year { legitimate infants ...1,239 / illegitimate infants... 88 }

Nett Deaths in the year { legitimate ... 96 / illegitimate... }